

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1 1. (Currently amended) A clean-in-place agitator arrangement for agitating the
2 contents of a sanitary tank, said tank having an outer wall, with drive means for
3 the agitator arrangement being disposed outside the tank outer wall; the
4 arrangement comprising
5 a drive shaft;
6 a shaft housing supported in said tank wall and extending from an exterior
7 of said wall to an interior of said tank wall, said shaft housing supporting said
8 drive shaft so that a proximal end thereof extends out an end of the shaft housing
9 exterior of said tank wall and a distal end thereof projects out another end within
10 said tank, said shaft housing having a hollow interior defining an open annulus
11 between the housing and the drive shaft; said shaft housing including means for
12 admitting a cleaning solution under pressure into said open annulus; and
13 an impeller mounted on the distal end of said shaft;
14 said shaft housing further including a pair of lip seals spaced from one
15 another and disposed over said drive shaft at the respective ends of said shaft
16 housing, ~~respectively~~; said drive shaft having a constant diameter at least through
17 said shaft housing and at the positions of said lip seals; and each said lip seal
18 having an annular lip that extends along said shaft in the distal direction and lies
19 against a circumferential surface of said shaft, so that when said cleaning fluid is
20 applied through said means for admitting, the fluid passes the lip of the lip seal at
21 the interior end of the shaft housing, so that the fluid sprays against a proximal

22 side of said impeller.

1 2. (Currently amended) The clean-in-place agitator arrangement of Claim 1
2 wherein said impeller is removably fitted onto said shaft, the distal end of said
3 drive shaft has a non-round portion, and said ~~agitator~~ impeller has a center
4 opening of a profile matching the non-round portion, so that the impeller ~~agitator~~
5 is held in place on said drive shaft to rotate with the shaft, without welding and
6 without threaded fasteners.

1 3. (Original) The clean-in-place agitator of Claim 1 wherein said drive shaft distal
2 end has a non-round portion at a tip thereof, and second non-round portion
3 proximal of said tip and spaced therefrom by a round shaft portion.

1 4. (Original) The clean-in-place agitator of Claim 1 wherein said shaft housing is
2 tilted downward so that fluid inside the housing drains in the proximal direction.

1 5. (Original) The clean-in-place agitator of Claim 1 wherein said lip seal
2 surrounds said shaft and projects along the shaft only in the distal direction.

6 - 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Currently amended) A clean-in-place agitator arrangement for agitating the
2 contents of a sanitary tank, said tank having an outer wall, with drive means for

3 the agitator arrangement being disposed outside the tank outer wall; the
4 arrangement comprising

5 a drive shaft;

6 a shaft housing supported in said tank wall and extending from an exterior
7 of said wall to an interior of said tank wall, said shaft housing supporting said
8 drive shaft so that a proximal end thereof extends out an end of the shaft housing
9 exterior of said tank wall and a distal end thereof projects out another end within
10 said tank, said shaft housing having a hollow interior defining an open annulus
11 between the housing and the drive shaft; said shaft housing including means for
12 admitting a cleaning solution under pressure into said open annulus ; ~~and means at~~
13 ~~a distal end of said shaft housing permitting said cleaning solution to spray in a~~
14 ~~distal direction ; and~~

15 an impeller removably mounted on the distal end of said shaft;

16 wherein the distal end of said drive shaft has a non-round portion, and said
17 impeller agitator has a center opening of a profile matching the non-round portion,
18 so that the impeller agitator is held in place on said drive shaft to rotate with the
19 shaft, without welding and without threaded fasteners; and

20 said shaft housing further including at least one lip seal disposed over said
21 drive shaft at the distal end of said shaft housing, said drive shaft having a
22 constant diameter at least through the distal end of said shaft housing, at the
23 positions of said lip seals, and to the distal end of the shaft; said lip seal having an
24 annular lip that extends along said shaft in the distal direction and lies against a
25 circumferential surface of said shaft, so that when said cleaning fluid is applied

26 through said means for admitting, the fluid passes the lip of the lip seal at the
27 interior end of the shaft housing, so that the fluid sprays therefrom and against a
28 proximal side of said impeller, as well as the shaft from said lip seal to said
29 impeller.

1 12. (Original) The clean-in-place agitator of Claim 11 wherein said drive shaft
2 distal end has a non-round portion at a tip thereof, and second non-round portion
3 proximal of said tip and spaced therefrom by a round shaft portion.

1 13. (New) The clean-in-place agitator arrangement of Claim 1 wherein said drive
2 shaft distal end does not extend radially beyond said diameter, so that the entire
3 proximal side of the impeller is sprayed with said cleaning fluid during a clean-in-
4 place cleaning operation.

1 14. (New) The clean-in-place agitator arrangement of Claim 1 wherein said
2 impeller has a hub that fits frictionally onto the distal end of said shaft.